

**The British Interest on the Coast of Africa Consider'd, with the Interest of other Europeans,  
and the Politicks they used for Carrying on that Trade.**

*As to other Nations,*

- I. **T**HEY all agree in this, and establish Joint Stocks, exclusive of all other their Subjects, with very great Privileges and Encouragements.
- II. The Managers of those Stocks have found it necessary, by consent of the Natives of *Africa*, to erect Fortifications and Settlements, and take all Opportunities (especially the *Dutch*, who are the most Politick and Designing People in Trade) to increase their Fortifications, and thereby very much to improve their Power on the Coast.
- III. The Kings of those Countries being numerous, they have always endeavour'd to fix a Friendship with as many of them as they can, and in the Method of the Natives to make strict Alliances, and agree to protect and assist them so often as they shall be oppress'd by their Neighbours, and upon any urgent Occasion to supply them with Advice, Arms and Ammunition; and the Natives, on their parts, are to bring down and encourage the Trade from the Inland-Countries, to the several Settlements, in opposition to other *Europeans* that shall have Settlements.
- IV. Those Nations who are strongest, and most numerous in Settlements; and those Alliances, and most punctual and powerful in supporting them, always enjoy the best part of the Trade.
- V. That so often as the Natives, Allies to different Nations Quarrel, if either Side be not supported, but happen to be worsted or overcome, the Trade to the Settlement, near to and of that Vanquish'd Allye, shall be intercepted, and so continue, until by the interposition of some stronger Powers, brought about by the Interest of the *European* General, can be hired or engaged to espouse a Reconciliation, which they do sometimes by Persuasions, and sometimes by Force, and that often Occasions chargeable and tedious Wars.
- VI. That Fortifications, where they are of different Nations, and lye contiguous, should some have those Alliances, and support them, and others have not an equal Interest and Regard thereof, those last should have no manner of Trade or Benefit by supporting Settlements, but must of Course relinquish them.
- VII. This Support of Alliances, occasions a very great Pollicy, Care and Expence, especially where Settlements of different Interests are numerous, and Allies very many.
- VIII. The Natives Allies are kept the most firm and constant, where they have the greatest Support and Dependance; and 'tis with the greatest Charge and Difficulty imaginable to continue their Friendship, if either be wanting.
- IX. Those who by Joint Stocks build Settlements, they are their Property, and the Goods in them belong to one and the same Interest; and the Natives, their Allies, have no Trade with any but them, and also make it their business to bring the Inland-Natives to their Settlements, whereby they become wholly dependant on the Interest they espouse.
- X. The Fortifications and Trade being in one and the same Interest, sometimes at very great Charge, they do, for the benefit of Trade, support their Native Allies, as well as their several Settlements, and, as often as Occasion requires, give them Presents, and keep them under a Pollicy of Management, the better and more certainly to have their Friendship.
- XI. Having concerted those Alliances, they make the most advantage they can of them; and upon all Opportunities, when other *European* Traders fall under Hardships, Misunderstandings or Difficulties, the Native Allies of the Contrary Party are encourag'd to increase it, in hopes to find their End therein by Improvement of their own Trade and Interest.

This is, and ever hath been the constant Policy and Practice of the *Dutch* on the Coast of *Africa*.

*As to the English,*

- I. **T**HE Present Company, whilst they enjoy'd the Trade in the same Nature as other Nations, preserv'd and improv'd the *English* Interest on the Coast in the same manner, by building an equal Number of Settlements, and engaging in the like Number of Alliances as other Nations.
  - II. The Company had concerted, by their well Management of the Natives, a more firm Interest on the Coast, and from thence a more certain and enlarg'd Trade than any other *European* Nation whatever, by which their Settlements were kept at a more easy Charge, and with great Security, tho' very Numerous and Contiguous with other *European* Settlements.
  - III. Upon the least Obstruction to the Companies Affairs, by the undermining Practices of their Competitors, it was customary that the Natives, the Companies Allies would bring their Wives and Children into the Companies Settlements, or near them, under their Protection; and resolve not to return until Justice was done on those who Endeavour'd to intercept the Companies Trade; or in any other manner offered to Injure them; and tho' this was not commonly ended by a Decisive Battle, yet it always ended in an Accommodation to the Satisfaction of the Companies Agents, and thereby not only preserved, but increased their Interest and Trade.
  - IV. The Companies Settlements, and the whole Trade to them, being the Property of one and the same Interest; the Natives were kept under a strict Tye of Friendship, and brought and accustomed to part with their *Negroes* at moderate Prizes, and take the Companies Goods at a reasonable Advance; by which the Company was enabled to oblige the Natives with Presents in the same degree as other *Europeans* did to their Allies; and by quick dispatches of their Ships, with Young and Healthy *Negroes*, and large Returns in Gold; the Company was also enabled and encouraged always to send such Supplies of Goods as the Coast would Vent, and to keep their Magazines constantly well stored with all sorts Vendible Commodities.
- This was the constant Practice of the Company, attended with Success, whilst they enjoyed and managed it under one and the same Interest.
- But so soon as the Trade became managed under separate Interests by an open Trade, the Preservation of the *English* Interest on the Coast, required much greater Trouble and Charge to preserve it; and so from time to time increased, to the great Hazard of its total Loss.
- I. The Natives Allies become regardless of their Alliances, and instead of supporting the Interest of the Settlements, despise both them and the Companies Agents, being told by open Traders, *We are your Friends that Purchase your Negroes at high Prizes, and sell you Goods Cheap; and tho' you find it so now at the Settlements; yet if you do not give us the preference, when we leave you, then you must part with your Negroes as formerly, at low Prizes, and pay the usual Rates for Goods; and add, We are your Friends that give you continual Presents.*
  - II. This the Companies Agents are obliged to bear with, and yet by Presents and other Pollicies oblige the Natives in the best manner they can, and support them in Alliances with one another, and in the *English* Interest in general; which they find it very difficult and chargeable to do.
  - III. Should not this be done, the Allies of other Nations would get the Ascendant, and by that means suppress those pretended Friends to the open Traders; and thereby the whole Trade of the *English* be intercepted, which is what has long been aimed at by the Competitors to the *English* Interest in that Trade; and this open Trade does with good reason revive their hopes of Success therein, and if not in time prevented, they will in all likelihood gain their end.
  - IV. These are Discouragements to the Company to send Supplies of Goods as heretofore; their Ships meet with no suitable dispatches or returns, but the whole Trade, by reason of its different Interests is under Confusion; the Alliances of this nature (where there is neither Laws nor Courts of Justice) impracticable to be preserved, and the *British* Interest under the greatest Hazards imaginable of being totally lost.
  - V. The Company have as yet by the Indefatigable Prudence of their Agents, and at the Companies great loss of their Trade and Stock, supported this General Interest in the best manner it was possible, in hopes that having a Convenient time to lay it before the Parliament, some effectual Care would be taken for Remedy hereof.

*And it is presumed, that upon mature Consideration, it will plainly appear, that Fortifications and Alliances on the Coast of Africa are not to be supported under any Regulation, whilst Persons of different Interests have liberty to Trade to them; and that there is no other way to support them but by a Joint-Stock, by which means Negroes can only be bought Cheap on the Coast; and consequently Sold at moderate Prizes in the Plantations: And that unless Fortifications and Alliances, as aforesaid, be kept up and supported, the Trade will be totally lost to this Nation, and end in Destruction of the Plantations.*



